

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES

1. MISSION SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE VERY HIGH DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE RENEWED EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO RESETTLE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE SEPT. 25 MEETING CALLED BY ICEM ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS BY LAYING THE GROUND WORK FOR ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES TO BRING TOGETHER ALL THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PRODUCE FIRM REFUGEE RESETTLEMENTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. WE ARE PREPARED TO LEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OUR SUPPORT IN ANY WAY THE GENEVA GROUP CONSIDERS USEFUL. IN MOUNTING THIS NEW EFFORT WE ARE GUIDED BY TWO MAIN CONSIDERATIONS: OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CONGRESS IS THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN THE

U.S. SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN 130,000; THERE ARE MANY REFUGEES STRANDED IN EAST ASIA LIVING UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. UNLESS WE SUCCEED IN MOVING REFUGEES NOW IN THE U.S. TO THIRD COUNTRIES WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT OTHERS FROM VARIOUS PLACES IN EAST ASIA. RESETTLEMENT FROM THE U.S. TO THIRD COUNTRIES OFFERS THE BEST POSSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH THE WHOLE PROBLEM AND FOR THIS REASON WE ARE PLACING A HIGH PRIORITY ON THIS EFFORT.

2. WE HAVE ASKED ICEM AND THE UNHCR TO MAKE A NEW EFFORT TO AROUSE THE INTERESTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE MORE INDO-CHINESE. ICEM IS ASKING THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT BY URGING THEIR CONSTITUENT AGENCIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO STIMULATE SPONSORSHIPS EITHER BY GOVERNMENTS OR PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS. MEANWHILE THE USG IS MAKING A NUMBER OF APPROACHES TO SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT ALL OF THESE EFFORTS PLUS THOSE OF THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES CAN BE PROPERLY COORDINATED AND PRODUCE THE RESULTS WE ARE SEEKING. AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ONLY 6100 INDOCHINESE HAVE LEFT THE U.S. SYSTEM FOR THIRD COUNTRIES, MAINLY TO FRANCE AND CANADA. FEW HAVE DEPARTED FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND ZERO REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. WE ARE TAKING NEW INITIATIVES WITH SOME GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA AND IN LATIN AMERICA WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES APPEAR TO OFFER SOME RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. AMONG THE PRESENT AFRICAN POSSIBILITIES ARE GABON, THE IVORY COAST, AND MALAWI.

4. TO FACILITATE THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT, THE USG IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO UNDERWRITE THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION FROM THE U.S. TO THE FINAL DESTINATION, IF NECESSARY. MOREOVER, IN ORDER TO RESETTLE REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY SIZABLE GROUPS, IN DEVELOPING RPT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WE ARE PREPARED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ICEM, THE UNHCR, OR INTERNATIONAL VOLAGS UP TO 1000 DOLS. PER CAPITA FOR RESETTLEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS. THE AMOUNT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN EACH CASE WILL DEPEND ON (A) THE ABILITY OF THE RECEIVING COUNTRY TO ABSORB THE COSTS; (B) THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ACCEPTED AND (C) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS SIZE OF FAMILY, LEVEL OF SKILLS, OR OTHER FACTORS MAKING RESETTLEMENT DIFFICULT. IATF WASHINGTON WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WHETHER OR NOT TO PROVIDE FUNDS REQUESTED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR VOLAGS TO ENSURE RESETTLEMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. MISSION REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE SEPT. 25 MEETING IN GENEVA SHOULD SHARE THE FOREGOING WITH THE PARTICIPANTS AND INDICATE THAT WE SEE THIS ACTION AS A COMBINED EFFORT IN WHICH WE WOULD DRAW ON THE TALENTS AND RESOURCES OF THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS DEPENDING ON THEIR CAPACITIES IN A GIVEN LOCATION. WE WOULD WANT THE

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE MECHANICS OF RESETTLEMENT AND IN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT THAT PROBLEMS ARISE IN RESETTLEMENT CASES. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH MATTERS AS THE SELECTION PROCESS, THE ACTUAL PROCESSING PROCEDURES AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR RECEPTION AS SPONSORSHIPS BECOME AVAILABLE. THE IATF IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A LIST OF REFUGEE SKILLS AND DOSSIERS ON INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES. IATF IS ALSO PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FACILITIES AT THE THREE REMAINING CAMPS FOR SELECTION TEAMS. THE GENEVA GROUP MAY, FOR EXAMPLE, DECIDE THAT FLYING TEAMS MAY BE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND THAT THE SELECTION PROCESS MIGHT REQUIRE SIMILAR TEAMS TO VISIT THE U.S. CAMPS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING VIEWS ON THESE TWO POINTS.

6. FINALLY, U.S. MISSION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT TIME IS A KEY FACTOR SINCE THE U.S. CAMP SYSTEM IS TO BE PHASED-OUT BY MID-DECEMBER. ACCORDINGLY THIS IS A SHORT TERM UNDERTAKING. MISSION SHOULD ALSO UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 1400 REFUGEES IN THE U.S. SYSTEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO HAVE APPLIED TO GO TO CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTERS TO PROVIDE OUR EMBASSIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES WITH LISTS OF THESE REFUGEES. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED THE CENTERS TO PROVIDE THE UNHCR WITH DOSSIERS ON THESE REFUGEES IN ORDER FOR THE UNHCR TO ASK THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO EXPEDITE ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE UNHCR MAY WISH TO PROVIDE THESE DOSSIERS TO ICEM OR THE INTERNATIONAL VOLAGS TO APPROACH GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL VOLAGS TO GET THESE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.

7. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THESE REFUGEES ARE HIGHLY SKILLED OR HAVE HAD WORK EXPERIENCE WHICH WOULD BE OF HIGH VALUE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THERE IS A RESEVOIR OF TALENT USEFUL IN A VARIETY OF ECONOMICS.

8. MISSION SHOULD REPORT RESULTS OF SEPT. 25 MEETING AND DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ACTIONS THAT ARE TO BE TAKEN BOTH HERE AND IN GENEVA. ROBINSON

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